

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 13, 2003

**PUBLIC HEARING SCHEDULED FOR SUPREME COURT SPECIAL
COMMITTEE ON CHILD CUSTODY ISSUES**

The Special Illinois Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues will hold a public hearing on Friday, March 28. The hearing is scheduled to begin at 10 a.m. in the Illinois Authors Room of the Illinois State Library, 300 S. Second Street in Springfield.

Members of the public, legal practitioners and child welfare professionals are invited to give their comments either through testimony at the hearing or by submitting written materials.

The purpose of the hearing is to obtain comments in order to help identify ways to improve the process of resolving disputed child custody matters. The goal is to identify practices and procedures that will ensure custody determinations are timely and consistent with the best interests of the child.

Anyone who wishes to provide written comments or to seek to testify at the hearing should advise the committee no later than Friday, March 21. Written comments and requests to testify should be addressed to:

Special Supreme Court Committee on Child Custody Issues
C/O Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts
222 N. LaSalle Street, 13th Floor
Chicago, Illinois 60601

Testimony and comments are invited on these issues:

- Methods of expediting child custody cases, including child custody appeals;
- Coordination of cases involving child custody issues;
- Substantive issues and problems under statutes governing child custody;
- Availability and quality of counsel for parties in child custody cases.

Those seeking permission to testify or to submit written comments are asked to list their organization, agency or employer and include their daytime telephone number and facsimile number.

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It is requested that testimony not refer to specific, pending cases.

Media coverage is invited and those media wishing to attend are asked to contact Joseph Tybor, press secretary for the Illinois Supreme Court at 312-793-2323.

The Special Committee was established by the Illinois Supreme Court January 30, 2002 to study child custody, parental termination and adoption issues. It is composed of Chair Illinois Appellate Justice Alan Greiman and 14 other judges from around the state who are familiar and experienced in child custody issues.

Illinois Supreme Court Justices Thomas R. Fitzgerald and Rita B. Garman serve as Supreme Court liaisons to the Committee.

Other members of the committee are:

Circuit Court Judge J. Peter Ault of the 10th Judicial Circuit, Pekin; Circuit Court Judge Robert J. Anderson of the 18th Judicial Circuit, Wheaton; Associate Judge Dennis J. Burke of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago; Circuit Court Judge Patricia Martin Bishop of the Circuit Court of Cook County in Chicago; Circuit Court Judge Robert Carter of the 13th Judicial Circuit in Ottawa; Associate Judge Barbara Crowder of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in Edwardsville;

Judge Scott D. Drazewski of the 11th Judicial Circuit in Bloomington; Judge R. Peter Grometer of the Illinois Appellate Court, Second Judicial District; Circuit Judge Curtis Heaston of the Cook County Circuit Court; Judge Moshe Jacobius, Circuit Court of Cook County Chicago; Associate Judge Nelson F. Metz of the 3rd Judicial Circuit in Edwardsville; Judge Karen G. Shields of the Cook County Circuit Court Chicago; Associate Judge Michael W. Stuttley of the Cook County Circuit Court, Markham and Associate Judge Chet W. Vahle of the 8th Judicial Circuit in Quincy.